

09/109,781

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-12 (canceled).

13. (Previously presented) A method for providing an interface for accessing devices that are currently connected to a home network, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) detecting devices that are currently connected to the home network, said devices having at least one controllable function;

(b) creating a menu for individually selecting each of said devices to activate said controllable function;

(c) displaying said menu on a display device for a user to individually select each device and activate said controllable function.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein said menu comprises a web page including at least one hypertext link to a web page contained within said device.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein:

in step (b) creating the menu further includes the steps of: (i) creating a device link page from the home network, wherein the device link page includes at least a device control that is associated with a device that is detected in step (a), and (ii) associating a hypertext link

with each device control, wherein the hypertext link provides a link to graphical or textual information that is contained in the detected device that is associated with the device control; and in step (c) displaying said menu includes the steps of displaying said device link page.

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein said device link page comprises a web page or an html page including at least one hypertext link to a web page or an html page contained within said detected device.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein in step (b)(ii) creating the device link page includes the steps of:

generating a device link file, wherein the device link file identifies the detected devices; and

creating the device link page including said device control associated with a device identified in the device link file.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the step of generating the device link file includes the steps of:

associating a logical device name with the detected device; and
storing the logical device name in the device link file.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the step of creating the device link page further includes the steps of:

retrieving a logical device name from the device link file;
storing the logical device name in the device link page; and
converting the logical device name to a device control.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein said device link page comprises a web page or an html page including at least one hypertext link to a web page or an html page contained within said detected device.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein in step (a) detecting devices that are currently connected to the home network further comprises the steps of autonomously detecting devices that are currently connected to the home network.

22. (Previously presented) A method for providing an interface for accessing devices that are currently connected to a home network, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) detecting an active state of devices that are currently connected to the home network, said devices having at least one controllable function;
(b) creating a menu for individually selecting each of said devices to activate said controllable function;
(c) displaying said menu on a display device for a user to individually select each device and activate said controllable function.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein in step (b) said menu comprises a web page including at least one hypertext link to a web page contained within said device.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein:

in step (b) creating the menu further includes the steps of: (i) creating a device link page from the home network, wherein the device link page includes at least a device control that is associated with a device that is detected in step (a), and (ii) associating a hypertext link with each device control, wherein the hypertext link provides a link to graphical to textual information that is contained in the detected device that is associated with the device control; and

in step (c) displaying said menu includes the steps of displaying said device link page.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein said device link page comprises a web page or an html page including at least one hypertext link to a web page or an html page contained within said detected device.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein in step (b)(ii), creating the device link page includes the steps of:

generating a device link file, wherein the device link file identifies the detected devices; and

creating the device link page including said device control associated with a device identified in the device link file.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein generating the device link file includes the steps of:

associating a logical device name with the detected device; and
storing the logical device name in the device link file.

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the step of creating the device link page further includes the steps of:

retrieving a logical device name from the device link file;
storing the logical device name in the device link page; and
converting the logical device name to a device control.

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein said device link page comprises a web page or an html page including at least one hypertext link to a web page or an html page contained within said detected device.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein in step (a) detecting an active status of devices that are currently connected to the home network further comprises the steps of autonomously detecting an active status of devices that are currently connected to the home network.

31. (Previously presented) A home network system for providing an interface for accessing devices that are currently connected to a home network, comprising:

 a detector that detects devices that are currently connected to the home network, said devices having at least one controllable function;

 a menu generator for creating a menu for individually selecting each of said devices to activate said controllable function;

 a browser for displaying said menu on a browser based device for a user to individually select each device and activate said controllable function.

32. (Previously presented) The system of claim 31, wherein said menu comprises a web page including at least one hypertext link to a web page contained within said device.

33. (Previously presented) The system of claim 31, wherein:

 the menu comprises a device link page such that the menu generator creates the device link page from the home network, the device link page including at least a device control that is associated with a device that is detected by the detector, and the menu generator further associates a hypertext link with each device control, wherein the hypertext link provides a link to graphical to textual information that is contained in the detected device that is associated with the device control; and

 the browser displays said device link page on the browser based device.

34. (Previously presented) The system of claim 33, wherein said device link page comprises a web page or an html page including at least one hypertext link to a web page or an html page contained within said detected device.

35. (Previously presented) The system of claim 33, wherein the menu generator creates the device link page by: generating a device link file, wherein the device link file identifies the detected devices; and then creating the device link page including said device control associated with a device identified in the device link file.

36. (Previously presented) The system of claim 35, wherein the menu generator creates the device link file by: associating a logical device name with the detected device; and storing the logical device name in the device link file.

37. (Previously presented) The system of claim 36, wherein the menu generator creates the device link page by: retrieving a logical device name from the device link file; storing the logical device name in the device link page; and converting the logical device name to a device control.

38. (Previously presented) The system of claim 37, wherein said device link page comprises a web page or an html page including at least one hypertext link to a web page or an html page contained within said detected device.

39. (Previously presented) The system of claim 31, wherein the detector autonomously detects devices that are currently connected to the home network.

40. (Previously presented) A home network system for providing an interface for accessing devices that are currently connected to a home network, comprising:

 a detector that detects an active state of devices that are currently connected to the home network, said devices having at least one controllable function;

 a menu generator that creates a menu for individually selecting said devices to activate said controllable function;

 a browser that displays said menu on a browser based device for a user to individually select each device and activate said controllable function.

41. (Previously presented) The system of claim 40, wherein said menu comprises a web page including at least one hypertext link to a web page contained within said device.

42. (Previously presented) The system of claim 40, wherein:

 the menu comprises a device link page such that the menu generator creates the device link page, the device link page including at least a device control that is associated with a device that is detected by the detector, and the menu generator associates a hypertext link with each device control, wherein the hypertext link provides a link to graphical to textual information that is contained in the detected device that is associated with the device control; and

 the browser displays said device link page on the browser based device.

43. (Previously presented) The system of claim 42, wherein said device link page comprises a web page or an html page including at least one hypertext link to a web page or an html page contained within said detected device.

44. (Previously presented) The system of claim 42, wherein the menu generator creates the device link page by: generating a device link file, wherein the device link file identifies the detected devices; and creating the device link page including said device control associated with a device identified in the device link file.

45. (Previously presented) The system of claim 44, wherein the menu generator generates the device link file by: associating a logical device name with the detected device; and storing the logical device name in the device link file.

46. (Previously presented) The system of claim 45, wherein the menu generator creates the device link page by: retrieving a logical device name from the device link file; storing the logical device name in the device link page; and converting the logical device name to a device control.

47. (Previously presented) The system of claim 46, wherein said device link page comprises a web page or an html page including at least one hypertext link to a web page or an html page contained within said detected device.

48. (Previously presented) The system of claim 40, wherein the detector autonomously detects an active status of devices that are currently connected to the home network.

Claims 49-76 (canceled).